ABHINAVAGUPTA INSTITUTE
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1. Statement of Purpose:

The Abhinavagupta Institute, a not-for-profit cultural and educational organization, was founded in 1989 for the purpose of advancing research in the field of aesthetics, initially through the study of Kashmir Shaivism. The Institute is named for the tenth century Kashmiri sage-philosopher, Abhinavagupta, who is widely recognized as the central theoretician of Indian aesthetics. His exhaustive treatment of drama, dance, music, and poetry has significantly shaped subsequent appreciation of these disciplines.

In addition to his treatises on aesthetics, Abhinavagupta was a profound mystic. He mastered the doctrines of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism before arriving at his own comprehensive synthesis of Indian philosophy, commonly referred to as Kashmir Shaivism. In accord with his cross-cultural approach, the Abhinavagupta Institute seeks to render the universal aspects of this traditional heritage relevant for modern times, as well as to further develop the fields of Kashmir Shaivism and Indian studies. Drawing upon these traditions, the Abhinavagupta Institute will provide a forum for people of diverse academic, artistic, scientific, and spiritual disciplines, whose studies integrate ancient wisdom with contemporary lifestyles.

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2. History

The initial inspiration for establishing the Abhinavagupta Institute arose from the personal vision of Swami Chetanananda, a highly-respected American spiritual teacher and author. Principally trained by the late Swami Rudrananda (an American disciple of Bhagavan Nityananda of Ganeshpuri, India), Swami Chetanananda in 1971 founded the Nityananda Institute of Cambridge, Massachusetts. A non-profit organization, the Nityananda Institute supports individuals in their pursuit of spiritual growth, and to this end provides instruction in meditation, stress management, hatha yoga, and classical texts. Through his work as Director, Swami Chetanananda recognizes the ever-increasing points of contact between his spiritual practices and the traditional doctrines of Kashmir Shaivism.

The Abhinavagupta Institute was formed in order that the greater community might benefit from and participate in the academic and cultural projects initiated by the Nityananda Institute. To date, the Abhinavagupta Institute has sponsored lectures by Dr. John Irwin, formerly of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Dr. Alexis Sanderson from Oxford University, Dr. Navjivan Rastogi from the University of Lucknow, and Dr. Kamalakar Mishra from Benares Hindu University. Currently, Dr. Sunthar Visuvalingam participates in the scholars-in-residence program. Future projects include collaboration with international academic, cultural, and governmental institutes. In addition, the Abhinavagupta Institute plans to sponsor conferences, research grants, lectures, and fellowships. The Abhinavagupta Institute seeks to benefit all individuals and invites the participation of the general public.

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3. Personnel

The Abhinavagupta Institute is governed by a Board of Directors which include:

1. Swami Chetanananda — Director — 7 Potter Park, Cambridge, MA 02138

2.	J.R. Shoemaker, Esq. Treasurer	6 Linnaean Street Cambridge, MA 02138
3.	Sharon Ward, Esq. Secretary	6 Linnaean Street Cambridge, MA 02138
4.	Joan Ames	19 Lancaster Street Cambridge, MA 02140
5.	Norman Bodek	230 Cedar Heights Road Stamford, CT 06909
6.	Cynthia Brown, Ph.D	20 Sargaent Road Belmont, MA 02178
7.	Gwen Galsworth, Ph.D.	14 Silvey Place Somerville, MA 02143
8.	Per Johansen, Ph.D	84 Edgerton Street Arlington, MA 02174
9.	Allan Kreiger, M.D.	903 Centinela Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90403

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4. Projects

Kashmir Shaivism Series (KSS): Central to the Abhinavagupta Institute is the KSS which since 1987 has been funded by the Nityananda Institute. The goal of this project is to translate the foundational texts of Kashmir Shaivism. Apart from the textual studies, such as Dr. Navjivan Rastogi's full length critical edition of *The Malinivijayottara Tantra*, the Series will include introductory works and interdisciplinary studies, highlighting the relevance of this tradition for the modern understanding of South Asian studies.

To oversee this project, the Abhinavagupta Institute is in the process of constituting a Kashmir Shaivism Editorial Board which currently includes: (1) Dr. Michel Hulin (Sorbonne, Paris), (2) Dr. B.N. Pandit (Kendriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth), (3) Dr. Navjivan Rastogi (University of Lucknow), (4) Dr. Raffaela Torella (Univeristy of Rome), and (5) Dr. Sunthar Visuvalingam (editor-in-chief).

Transgressive Sacrality Series (TSS): Concurrent with KSS, series editor Sunthar Visuvalingam is editing the TSS, an offspring of the 1986 University of Wisconsin's South Asian conference panel, organized by Dr. Sunthar Visuvalingam. The term "transgressive sacrality" derives from Abhinavagupta's Tantric

background which sanctioned the ritualized transcendence of sacred norms. This theme can be traced through various cross-cultural traditions. The first proposed volume is Transgressive Sacrality in the Jewish tradition. Other volumes would include systems such as the Hindu or the Chinese tradition.

As of now, the Transgressive Sacrality Editorial Board members include: (1) Dr. Catherine Clement (Sorbonne, Paris), (2) Dr. Raoul Makarius, (3) Dr. Frederique Apffel Marglin (Smith College), (4) Dr. Charles Mopsik (National Center for Scientific Research,Paris), and (5) Dr. Jose Carlos Gomes da Silva (Museum of Ethnology, Lisbon), and (6) Dr. Sunthar Visuvalingam (editor-in-chief). The Abhinavagupta Institute invites the collaboration of all scholars who feel that the issue of transgressive sacrality is relevant to their current work.

The Abhinavagupta Institute is federally tax-exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is funded by donations and grants.